DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 034 178 AL 002 178

| | |
|---|---|
| AUTHOR | Gage, William W., Comp. |
| TITLE | List of Languages with Numbers of Native Speakers. |
| INSTITUTION | Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington, D.C. |
| PUB DATE | Dec 69 |
| NOTE | 8p. |
| EDRS PRICE | EDRS Price MF-$0.25 HC-$0.50 |
| DESCRIPTORS | *Language Classification, *Languages, *Statistical Data |

ABSTRACT

The Center for Applied Linguistics, in its function as a clearinghouse for linguistic information, maintains a set of language files, limited to some 300 languages which have been selected from among the 3,000 to 4,000 in the world for their socio-political importance from an American point of view. The present list, compiled from these files, indicates for each language (1) the approximate number of speakers, (2) the language family of which it is a member, and (3) the principal geographical area of concentration of its speakers. (AMM)

ED034178

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

# List of Languages with Numbers of Native Speakers

compiled by

William W. Gage

for the use of the

LANGUAGE FILES

Foreign Language Program
Center for Applied Linguistics

AL 002 178

1969

# L A N G U A G E  F I L E S ·

List of Languages with Numbers of Native Speakers

The Center for Applied Linguistics, in its function as a clearing house for linguistic information, maintains a set of files concerned with languages. These Language Files are limited to about three hundred languages which have been selected from among the three to four thousand in the world for their socio-political importance from an American point of view.

Reliable population figures for languages are not generally obtainable, and the ones given here are merely educated guesses. The present list includes an indication of the genetic relationship of all but a few of the languages. The larger language families are abbreviated as follows: Afro-Asiatic, AA; Indo-European, IE; Malayo-Polynesian, MP; Niger-Congo, NC; Sino-Tibetan, ST. The fourth column generally gives the name of the country having the greatest number of speakers of the language in question, and for the larger countries usually some indication of the appropriate part of the country.

December, 1969

Center for Applied Linguistics
1717 Massachusetts Avenue N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20036

| LANGUAGE [file name] | MILLIONS | GENETIC RELATIONSHIP | PRINCIPAL CONCENTRATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| Achooli-Luo | 2.9 | Nilotic (Chari-Nile) | Uganda |
| Achinese | 1.7 | Sundic MP | Indonesia (N Sumatra) |
| Afrikaans | 3.9 | Germanic IE | South Africa |
| Akan (Twi-Fante) | 3.1 | Guinean NC | Ghana |
| Albanian | 3.0 | Albanian IE | Albania |
| Amharic | 11 | Semitic AA | Ethiopia |
| Amoy | 31 | Chinese ST | China (Fukien) |
| Anyi-Baule | 1.3 | Guinean NC | Ivory Coast |
| Arabic | 95 | Semitic AA | Egypt |
| Araucanian | .36 | Araukan | Chile |
| Armenian | 3.9 | Armenian IE | USSR (Armenian SSR) |
| Assamese | 7.1 | Indic IE | India (Assam) |
| Avar | .32 | NE Caucasic | USSR (Dagestan) |
| Awadhi | 35 | Indic IE | India (U. P.) |
| Aymará | 1.5 | Kiĉua-Aymará | Bolivia |
| Azerbaijani | 7.6 | Turkic (Altaic) | Iran |
| Balante | .17 | W Atlantic NC | Portuguese Guinea |
| Balinese | 2.0 | Sundic MP | Indonesia (Bali) |
| Baluchi | 2.1 | Iranian IE | [West] Pakistan |
| Bamilike | .80 | Bantu NC | Cameroon |
| Banda | .84 | Eastern NC | Central African Republic |
| Bashkir | 1.13 | Turkic (Altaic) | USSR (Bashkir ASSR) |
| Bariba | .22 | Voltaic NC | Dahomey |
| Basque | .96 | | Spain |
| Karo Batak | .35 | Batak MP | Indonesia (NCt Sumatra) |
| Simalungun Batak | .71 | Batak MP | Indonesia (NCt Sumatra) |
| Toba Batak | 1.4 | Batak MP | Indonesia (NCt Sumatra) |
| Beja | 1.0 | Cushitic AA | Sudan |
| Belu | .25 | Moluccan MP | Timor |
| iciBemba | 1.6 | Bantu NC | Zambia |
| Bengali | 100 | Indic IE | [East] Pakistan |
| Bete | .69 | Guinean NC | Ivory Coast |
| Bhojpuri | 32 | Indic IE | India (Bihar) |
| Bicol | 2.5 | Philippinic MP | Philippines |
| Bini | .84 | Guinean NC | Nigeria (Mid-Western) |
| Boro | .23 | Tibeto-Burman ST | India (Assam) |
| Breton | 1.2 | Keltic IE | France |
| Buginese | 3.0 | Celebes MP | Indonesia (S Celebes) |
| Bulgarian | 7.6 | Slavic IE | Bulgaria |
| Buriat | .32 | Mongol (Altaic) | USSR (Buryat ASSR) |
| Burmese | 18 | Tibeto-Burman ST | Burma |
| Byelorussian | 8.9 | Slavic IE | USSR (White Russian SSR) |
| Cakchikel | .40 | Mayan | Guatemala |
| Cambodian | 6.4 | Mon-Khmer | Cambodia |
| Cantonese | 50 | Chinese ST | China (Kwangtung) |
| Catalan | 5.7 | Romance IE | Spain |
| kiChagga | .45 | Bantu NC | Tanzania |
| Chamorro | .03 | Philippinic[?] MP | Guam |
| Chechen | .48 | NCt Caucasic | USSR |
| Cheremis | .57 | Finnic (Uralic) | USSR (Mari ASSR) |
| Cherokee | .01 | Iroquoian | US (Okla.) |
| Chocktaw | .01 | Muskogean | US (Okla.) |
| chiChopi | .32 | Bantu NC | Mozambique |
| Chuvash | 1.7 | [N] Turkic (Altaic) | USSR (Chuvash ASSR) |

| LANGUAGE [file name] | MILLIONS | GENETIC RELATIONSHIP | PRINCIPAL CONCENTRATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| Circassian | .53 | NW Caucasic | USSR |
| ciCokwe | .96 | Bantu NC | Angola |
| Cree-Montangnais | .04 | Algonquian | Canada |
| Creek | .01 | Muskogean | US (Okla.) |
| Creole French | 6 | Romance IE | Haiti |
| Crioulo | .17 | Romance IE | Cape Verde Islands |
| Czech | 9.7 | Slavic IE | Czechoslovakia |
| Dagomba | 1.6 | Voltaic NC | Ghana |
| Dan | .23 | Mande NC | Ivory Coast |
| Danish | 4.8 | Germanic IE | Denmark |
| Dinka | 1.7 | Nilotic (Chari-Nile) | Sudan |
| Duala | .71 | Bantu NC | Cameroon |
| Dusun | .20 | Philippinic MP | Malasia (Sabah) |
| Dutch | 18 | Germanic IE | Netherlands |
| Efik | 2.8 | Benue NC | [SE] Nigeria |
| English | 270 | Germanic IE | US |
| Eskimo | .05 | Esquimo-Aleut | Greenland |
| South Alaskan Eskimo | .02 | Esquimo-Aleut | US (Alaska) |
| Estonian | 1.4 | Finnic (Uralic) | Estonia |
| Ewe-Fon | 3.5 | Guinean NC | Dahomey |
| Fang-Bulu | 1.4 | Bantu NC | Cameroon |
| Fijian | .21 | Heonesian MP | Fiji |
| Finnish | 4.8 | Finnic (Uralic) | Finland |
| Foochow | 24 | Chinese ST | China (Fukien) |
| French | 55 | Romance IE | France |
| Frisian | .43 | Germanic IE | Netherlands |
| Fulani | 11 | W Atlantic NC | [N] Nigeria |
| Gã | .73 | Guinean NC | Ghana |
| Gaelic | .22 | Keltic IE | Ireland |
| Galla | 5.8 | Cushitic AA | Ethiopia |
| luGanda | 2.1 | Bantu NC | Uganda |
| Garo | .35 | Tibeto-Burman ST | India (Assam) |
| Georgian | 3.1 | Kartvelian | USSR (Georgian SSR) |
| German | 90 | Germanic IE | Germany |
| Goajiro | .03 | Arawakan | Colombia |
| kiGogo | .49 | Bantu NC | Tanzania |
| Gondi | 2.9 | Dravidian | India (Andhra Pradesh) |
| Greek | 9.6 | Hellenic IE | Greece |
| Guaraní | 2.1 | Tupí-Guaraní | Paraguay |
| Gujerati | 27 | Indic IE | India (Gujerat) |
| Gurage | .52 | Semitic AA | Ethiopia |
| ekeGusii | .64 | Bantu NC | Kenya |
| kiHa | .50 | Bantu NC | Tanzania |
| Hakka | 19 | Chinese ST | China (Kiangsi) |
| Hausa | 14 | Chadic AA | [N] Nigeria |
| ruHayá | .71 | Bantu NC | Tanzania |
| Hebrew | 1.6 | Semitic AA | Israel |
| Hindi-Urdu | 105 | Indic IE | India |
| Hsiang | 6 | Chinese ST | China (Hunan) |
| Hungarian | 13 | Ugric (Uralic) | Hungary |

| LANGUAGE [file name] | MILLIONS | GENETIC RELATIONSHIP | PRINCIPAL CONCENTRATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| Iban | .27 | Sundic MP | Malasia (Sarawak) |
| Ibanag | .48 | Philippinic MP | Philippines |
| Icelandic | .21 | Germanic IE | Iceland |
| Igala | .57 | Guinean NC | [Ct] Nigeria |
| Igbo | 10 | Guinean NC | Former E Reg. of Nigeria |
| Western Ijaw | .30 | Guinean NC | [SCt] Nigeria [coast] |
| ciIla-ciTonga | .70 | Bantu NC | Zambia |
| Ilocano | 4.2 | Philippinic MP | Philippines |
| Indonesian-Malay | 14 | Sundic MP | Indonesia (Sumatra) |
| Iroquois | .01 | Iroquoian | Canada (Ontario) |
| Ishan | .40 | Guinean NC | Nigeria (Mid-Western) |
| Italian | 60 | Romance IE | Italy |
| Japanese | 100 | Japanese | Japan |
| Javanese | 50 | Sundic MP | Indonesia (Java) |
| Jwang-Bui | 8 | Tai | China (Kwangsi) |
| Kabre | .34 | Voltaic NC | Togo |
| Kabyle | 1.1 | Berber AA | Algeria |
| Kachin | .51 | Tibeto-Burman ST | Burma |
| kiKamba | 1.1 | Bantu NC | Kenya |
| Kannada | 20 | Dravidian | India (Mysore) |
| Kanuri | 3.5 | Saharan | [NE] Nigeria |
| Kashmiri | 2.4 | Indic IE | India (Jammu & Kashmir) |
| Kazakh | 4.9 | Turkic (Altaic) | USSR (Kazakh SSR) |
| Khalkha | 2.6 | Mongol (Altaic) | Mongolia |
| Khasi | .43 | Mon-Khmer | India (Assam) |
| kiKikuyu | 2.7 | Bantu NC | Kenya |
| Kipsigis | .41 | Nilotic (Chari-Nile) | Kenya |
| Kirgiz | 1.2 | Turkic (Altaic) | USSR (Kirgiz SSR) |
| Kissi | .28 | W Atlantic NC | Guinea |
| kiKongo | 2.9 | Bantu NC | Dem. Repub. Congo |
| Korean | 42 | Altaic[?] | Korea |
| Kpelle | .39 | Mande NC | Liberia |
| Krio | .15 | Germanic IE | Sierra Leone |
| Kru-Bassa | .82 | Guinean NC | Liberia |
| Kurdiah | 8.0 | Iranian IE | Turkey |
| Kurukh | .97 | Dravidian | India (M. P.) |
| Lahnda | 12 | Indic IE | [W] Pakistan |
| Latvian | 1.6 | Baltic IE | Latvia |
| Lisu | .42 | Tibeto-Burman ST | China (Szechwan) |
| Lithuanian | 2.8 | Baltic IE | Lithuania |
| Lolo | 4.1 | Tibeto-Burman ST | China (Szechuan) |
| Loma | .21 | Mande NC | Liberia |
| siLozi | .42 | Bantu NC | Zambia |
| chiLuba | 2.8 | Bantu NC | Dem. Repub. Congo |
| Lugbara | .28 | Ct Sudanic (Chari-Nile) | Dem. Repub. Congo |
| luLuhya | 1.7 | Bantu NC | Kenya |

| LANGUAGE [file name] | MILLIONS | GENETIC RELATIONSHIP | PRINCIPAL CONCENTRATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| Macedonian | 1.5 | Slavic IE | Yugoslavia |
| Madurese | 7.1 | Sundic MP | Indonesia (Java, Madura) |
| Magahi | 9.7 | Indic IE | India (Bihar) |
| Maithili | 17 | Indic IE | India (Bihar) |
| Makassarese | 1.12 | Celebes MP | Indonesia (SW Celebes) |
| chiMakonde | .79 | Bantu NC | Tanzania |
| iMakua | 3.7 | Banto NC | Mozambique |
| Malagasy | 6.5 | Malagasy MP | Madagascar |
| Malayalam | 19 | Dravidian | India (Kerala) |
| Maldivian | .10 | Indic IE | Maldive Islands |
| Mam | .37 | Mayan | Guatemala |
| Mandarin | 500 | Chinese ST | China |
| Mandekan | 3.8 | Mande NC | Mali |
| Manipuri | .69 | Tibeto-Burman ST | India (Manipur Territory) |
| Mano | .10 | Mande NC | Liberia |
| Marathi | 42 | Indic IE | India (Maharashtra) |
| Masai | .41 | Nilotic (Chari-Nile) | Kenya |
| Mazatec | .17 | Otomanguean | Mexico |
| kiMbundu | 1.3 | Bantu NC | Angola |
| uMbundu | 1.9 | Bantu NC | Angola |
| Menangkabao | 4.0 | Sundic MP | Indonesia (Ct Sumatra) |
| Mende | .75 | Mande NC | Sierra Leone |
| Miao | 3.4 | Miao-Yao ST | China (Kweichow) |
| Minahasa-Gorontalo | .90 | Philippinic MP | Indonesia (NE Celebes) |
| Mixtec | .40 | Otomanguean | Mexico |
| Mon | .57 | Mon-Khmer | Burma |
| loMongo-loNkundo | 2.7 | Bantu NC | Dem. Repub. Congo |
| Mordvin | 1.4 | Finnic (Uralic) | USSR (Mordvin ASSR) |
| Moré | 2.7 | Voltaic NC | Upper Volta |
| Motu | .01 | Heonesian MP | Papua |
| Nahuatl | 1.5 | Uto-Aztecan | Mexico |
| kiNande | .37 | Bantu NC | Dem. Repub. Congo |
| Nandi | .23 | Nilotic (Chari-Nile) | Kenya |
| Navajo | .12 | Athabascan | US (Ariz.) |
| Nepali | 5.9 | Indic IE | Nepal |
| Newari | .49 | Tibeto-Burman ST | Nepal |
| Ngadju | .13 | Sundic MP | Indonesia (S Borneo) |
| liNgala | 1.1 | Bantu NC | Dem. Repub. Congo |
| iNguru | .89 | Bantu NC | Malawi |
| Norwegian | 4.2 | Germanic IE | Norway |
| Nubian | 1.2 | Nubian (Chari-Nile) | Sudan |
| Nuer | .72 | Nilotic (Chari-Nile) | Sudan |
| Nupe | 1.6 | Guinean NC | [Ct] Nigeria |
| kiNyamwezi-kiSukuma | 2.3 | Bantu NC | Tanzania |
| chiNyanja | 3.5 | Bantu NC | Malawi |
| luNyoro | .59 | Bantu NC | Uganda |
| Ojibway | .04 | Algonquian | Canada (Ontario) |
| Oriya | 19 | Indic IE | India (Orissa) |
| Ossetic | .46 | Iranian IE | USSR (N Caucasus) |
| Otomi | .60 | Otomanguean | Mexico |
| Ovambo | .42 | Bantu NC | SW Africa |

| LANGUAGE [file name] | MILLIONS | GENETIC RELATIONSHIP | PRINCIPAL CONCENTRATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| Pampanga | 1.09 | Philippinic MP | Philippines |
| Pangasinan | .97 | Philippinic MP | Philippines |
| Papago | .01 | Uto-Aztecan | US (Ariz.) |
| Papiamento | .20 | Romance IE | Netherlands Antilles |
| Pashto | 16 | Iranian IE | Afganistan |
| Persian-Tajik | 18 | Iranian IE | Iran |
| Polish | 36 | Slavic IE | Poland |
| Polynesian | .42 | Heonesian MP | Pacific |
| Portuguese | 95 | Romance IE | Brazil |
| Provençal | 4 | Romance IE | [S] France |
| Punjabi | 38 | Indic IE | India (Punjab) |
| Pwo | .60 | Karen ST[?] | Burma |
| Quechua | 10.1 | Kiču-Aymará | Peru |
| Quekchi | .28 | Mayan | Guatemala |
| Quiché | .65 | Mayan | Guatemala |
| Rajastani | 21 | Indic IE | India (Rajasthan) |
| Rif | .85 | Berber AA | Morocco |
| Romansch | .06 | Romance IE | Switzerland |
| kinyaRuanda-kiRundi | 10 | Bantu NC | Rwanda |
| Rumanian | 19 | Romance IE | Rumania |
| Russian | 130 | Slavic IE | USSR |
| Ryukyu | 1.00 | Japanese | Okinawa |
| Sadang | .56 | Celebes MP | Indonesia (W Celebes) |
| Sango-Ngbandi | .20 | Eastern NC | Central African Republic |
| Santali | 3.9 | Munda | India (W Bengal) |
| Sardinian | .90 | Romance IE | Italy (Sardinia) |
| Sasak | 1.12 | Sundic MP | Indonesia (Lombok) |
| Senari | .60 | Voltaic NC | Ivory Coast |
| Serbo-Croatian | 15 | Slavic IE | Yugoslavia |
| Serer | .47 | W Atlantic NC | Senegal |
| Sgaw | .72 | Karen ST[?] | Burma |
| Shan | 1.7 | Tai | Burma |
| Shilha | 1.6 | Berber AA | Morocco |
| chiShona | 3.5 | Bantu NC | Rhodesia |
| Sindhi | 7.4 | Indic IE | [W] Pakistan |
| Sinhalese | 7.9 | Indic IE | Ceylon |
| Sioux | .01 | Siouan | US (S.D.) |
| Slovak | 4.4 | Slavic IE | Czechoslovakia |
| Slovene | 1.9 | Slavic IE | Yugoslavia |
| Somali | 4.4 | Cushitic AA | Somalia |
| Songhai | 1.2 | | Niger |
| Soninke | .65 | Mande NC | Mali |
| Spanish | 160 | Romance IE | Mexico |
| Sundanese | 15 | Sundic MP | Indonesia (W Java) |
| Suppire | .77 | Voltaic NC | Mali |
| Susu | .62 | Mande NC | Guinea |
| siSuthu | 4.8 | Bantu NC | South Africa |
| kiSwahili | 1.3 | Bantu NC | Tanzania |
| Swedish | 8.4 | Germanic IE | Sweden |

| LANGUAGE [file name] | MILLIONS | GENETIC RELATIONSHIP | PRINCIPAL CONCENTRATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tagalog | 6.8 | Philippinic MP | Philippines |
| Tamazight | 1.4 | Berber AA | Morocco |
| Tamil | 41 | Dravidian | India (Madras) |
| Tarascan | .15 | | Mexico |
| Tatar | 5.8 | Turkic (Altaic) | USSR |
| kiTeke | .66 | Bantu NC | Congo |
| Telugu | 46 | Dravidian | India (Andhra Pradesh) |
| Tem | .14 | Voltaic NC | Togo |
| Temne | .73 | W Atlantic NC | Sierra Leone |
| Teso | .70 | Nilotic (Chari-Nile) | Uganda |
| Thai-Lao | 25 | Tai | Thailand |
| Thô | 3 | Tai | China (Kwangsi) |
| shiThonga | 1.3 | Bantu NC | Mozambique |
| Tibetan | 4.5 | Tibeto-Burman | Tibet |
| Tigre | .47 | Semitic AA | Ethiopia (Eritrea) |
| Tigrinya | 2.1 | Semitic AA | Ethiopia |
| Tiv | 2.6 | Benue NC | [E Ct] Nigeria |
| Totonac | .24 | Zoque-Maya | Mexico |
| shiTswa | .85 | Bantu NC | Mozambique |
| Tuareg | .65 | Berber AA | Niger |
| Tulu | 1.1 | Dravidian | India (Mysore) |
| chiTumbuka | .32 | Bantu NC | Malawi |
| Turkish | 30 | Turkic (Altaic) | Turkey |
| Turkoman | 2.1 | Turkic (Altaic) | USSR (Turkmen SSR) |
| Tzeltal | .14 | Mayan | Mexico |
| Tzotzil | .17 | Mayan | Mexico |
| Uigur | 4.6 | Turkic (Altaic) | China (Sinkiang) |
| Ukrainian | 42 | Slavic IE | USSR (Ukrainian SSR) |
| Urhobo | .80 | Guinean NC | Nigeria (Mid-Western) |
| Uzbek | 8.3 | Turkic (Altaic) | USSR (Uzbek SSR) |
| Vai | .25 | Mande NC | Liberia |
| chiVenda | .36 | Bantu NC | South Africa |
| Vietnamese | 32 | Muong | Vietnam |
| Visayan | 15 | Philippinic MP | Philippines |
| Votyak | .68 | Finnic (Uralic) | USSR (Udmurt ASSR) |
| Welsh | .80 | Keltic IE | Wales |
| Wolof | 1.3 | W Atlantic NC | Senegal |
| Wu | 55 | Chinese ST | China (Chekiang) |
| Yakut | .27 | Turkic (Altaic) | USSR (Yakut ASSR) |
| Yao | 1.14 | Miao-Yao ST | China (Hunan) |
| kiYao | 1.2 | Bantu NC | Malawi |
| Yiddish | 3 | Germanic IE | US |
| Yoruba | 10 | Guinean NC | [SW] Nigeria |
| Yucatec | .73 | Mayan | Mexico |
| Zande | 1.4 | Eastern NC | Dem. Repub. Congo |
| Isthmus Zapotec | .32 | Otomanguean | Mexico |
| isiZulu-isiXhosa-siSwati | 10 | Bantu NC | South Africa |
| Zyrien | .49 | Finnic (Uralic) | USSR (Komi ASSR) |